



**National Capacity Needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management**

**CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN FOR DEVELOPING CAPACITY  
FOR COMPLIANCE WITH GLOBAL CONVENTIONS ON BIODIVERSITY,  
CLIMATE CHANGE, AND LAND DEGRADATION**

**REPORT OF THE NCSA SRI LANKA**

**Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources**  
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**CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN FOR DEVELOPING CAPACITY  
FOR COMPLIANCE WITH GLOBAL CONVENTIONS ON BIODIVERSITY,  
CLIMATE CHANGE, AND LAND DEGRADATION**

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## PERFACE

This report is the final product of the Sri Lanka National Capacity Needs Self Assessment Project. It consists of ten sections or chapters and an executive summary. The report covers the main contents of the NCSA Report and the Action Plan as given in the NCSA Resource Kit.<sup>1</sup>

Following a brief **introduction**, a broad overview of the **country framework** and the economic, environmental and social contexts are given in Chapter 2. The next Chapter deals with the **national priorities for implementing UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD**. This section comprises the institutional arrangements (3.1) and a brief review of the status of implementation of the conventions (3.2). A description of the **project development and implementation** is given in Chapter 4. This chapter includes a discussion of the NCSA process vis-à-vis the guiding principles of GEF (4.4), and the identification and analysis of stakeholders for the thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation (4.5).

A **description of the NCSA products**, viz, the thematic profiles, cross cutting issues, and the capacity development action plan is given in Chapter 5. The outputs from the project other than the required reports are also given (5.4). The outcome of the **thematic assessments of biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation** are described in greater detail in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 respectively. These chapters comprise a concise description of the institutional framework, progress towards meeting national obligations, plans, policies and legal instruments, and the identified capacity needs and interventions for each thematic area. Chapter 9 deals with the **cross cutting issues**, and the **consolidated action plan for capacity development** is given in Chapter 10. The report ends with the **references and annexes**.

M. A. R. D. Jayatillake  
Secretary  
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<sup>1</sup> The Resource Kit of September 2005 recommends that countries combine the NCSA Report and the Action Plan into one final report.

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## **National Capacity Needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management**

### **CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN FOR DEVELOPING CAPACITY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH GLOBAL CONVENTIONS ON BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND LAND DEGRADATION**

#### **Executive Summary**

The urgency of multilateral action in order to address the problems of environmental degradation with its impacts on socio-economic development was highlighted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Sri Lanka was one of the 178 countries that made commitments to environmental protection and sustainable development by adopting the main instruments at the Earth Summit.

**Country Context:** Sri Lanka ratified the UN Conventions on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), Climate Change UNFCCC), and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1993, 1994, and 1998 respectively. Sri Lanka is also a party to the Kyoto Protocol under the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Biosafety Protocol under the Biodiversity Convention. Moreover Sri Lanka is a party to 38 multilateral environmental agreements including several which pre-date the Rio Summit.

Sri Lanka has its share of environmental challenges. The development efforts of successive governments during the last five decades since the country gained independence, have led to an increase in the standard of living of its people. Sri Lanka's GDP per capita is US\$ 1197 which is ahead of some South Asian countries. The sustained efforts to improve living standards in the context of a high population density of 314 persons per square kilometer have created tremendous pressure on the natural environment of the country. Around 20 policies and over 80 statutes have been developed to address various aspects of environment and natural resources over the years. However there are major environmental issues that need attention through coordinated action by all stakeholders. These include land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, air pollution, declining availability of fresh water, degradation of marine and coastal habitats, and inadequacy in solid waste disposal measures.

**National Capacity Self Assessment:** The National Capacity Self assessment process is an initiative by UNDP and GEF in recognition of the critical role of capacity development for implementing MEAs. Three levels of capacity, viz, individual, institutional, and systemic are recognized for capacity development. Capacity building at the systemic level refers to the creation of an enabling environment (policy, legal and accountability frameworks) within which institutions and individuals operate. The

National Capacity Needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) Project was developed for Sri Lanka by the Ministry of Environment and UNDP in 2004. The project was executed by the Ministry of Environment which, importantly, functions as the national focal point for UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD.

The goal of the project is to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity building to address global environmental issues, in particular biological diversity, climate change, and land degradation, and the cross cutting needs and synergies in fulfilling national obligations to the three Rio Conventions. And to do so with the aim of catalyzing domestic and/or externally assisted action to meet those needs in a coordinated and planned manner.

**The Process, Tools and Methods:** Stocktaking or the *baseline appraisal* process was the first step to identification of capacity needs. At the outset a stakeholder analysis was done (Section 4.5). The baseline appraisal took stock of the existing situation with regard to the status of implementation of the conventions, the national obligations under the conventions, and the plans, policies, legal framework, and institutional mechanisms to address the thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. This process resulted in Basic Thematic Profiles for the three thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. The tools used by the thematic consultants for the baseline appraisal were desk study, questionnaire survey, personal visits and interviews.

In the next stage of the NCSA process, *viz.*, the *thematic assessment*, the country performance in addressing convention requirements, and, the priority capacity needs and opportunities for capacity development for each thematic area, at the systemic, institutional and individual levels were identified. In the thematic assessments for climate change and for land degradation, the national obligations as a Party to the convention were prioritized using an Issue Prioritization Matrix, followed by a root cause analysis to identify the capacity constraints and opportunities for capacity development. In the case of biodiversity, pre-selected priority areas were prioritized through a subjective qualitative analysis of existing capacity, followed by a prioritization matrix. In all three thematic areas the identification of priority capacity constraints and needs was done through a consultative process with the participation of stakeholders. The tools used were – questionnaire survey, roundtables, mini-workshops, workshops, and focus group discussions.

The identified capacity constraints, needs and capacity development interventions have been detailed in separate thematic assessment reports. They are summarized in Chapters 6 (biodiversity), 7 (climate change), and 8 (land degradation).

In the *cross cutting assessment*, the capacity needs and interventions that cut across the thematic areas were identified based on the results of the three thematic assessments. Addressing these capacity needs is expected to achieve synergies in the implementation of UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD. The cross cutting capacity needs and interventions are given in Chapter 9. The final step of the project is the preparation of the *capacity development action plan*. This was done through a consultative process of workshops and meetings of Thematic Working Groups.

**Capacity Development Action Plan:** The action plan for capacity development is the end product of the NCSA process. The purpose of the action plan is to mobilize resources (domestic and external) and implement the capacity development actions identified as necessary for sound environmental management according to national priorities, while meeting the international commitments made as a Party to Rio conventions.

Action Plans for capacity enhancement in the thematic areas of land degradation, climate change and bio diversity conservation and the cross cutting capacity needs were prepared separately, and then integrated into a consolidated action plan. Thirteen cross cutting capacity interventions and 12 interventions specific to the thematic areas were identified. The key tasks/ actions, the responsible agencies and partner agencies, the time frame, and resource mobilization, namely source of funds and indicative budgets have been identified for each intervention for capacity development. Indicators for capacity development for each of the interventions were also identified. The consolidated action plan is given in Chapter 10. The identified capacity development needs and interventions at systemic, institutional and individual levels are summarized below.

## **Recommendations for Capacity Intervention**

### **I. Cross cutting capacity development to:**

1. Formulate and institute national policies, as required, through a wide consultative process. For example development of policy for
  - (a) Access to genetic resources & benefit sharing, including traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and benefit sharing with TK holders;
  - (b) Biotechnology using genetic resources within ABS regime;
  - (c) data & information management;
  - (d) on national network of protected areas;
  - (e) on conservation &

sustainable use of livestock biodiversity, in livestock development policy; (f) on agrobiodiversity, in agriculture policy; (g) emphasis on land degradation in land use policy; (h) on land alienation & regularisation of encroachments; and (i) policy on climate change.

2. Enhance capacity for communication, education and public awareness on conservation and sustainable use of resources to mobilize commitment and participation of all stakeholders.
3. Enhance capacity to integrate (mainstream) environment concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes of public agencies.
4. Enhance capacity to obtain adequate national budgetary allocations (and external funds, as necessary) and capacity to use funds efficiently.
5. Adopt measures to engage the business sector effectively in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
6. Strengthen enforcement of laws and regulations to promote conservation and sustainable use.
7. Strengthen system and capacity for information management and information sharing as relevant for the three Rio Conventions.
8. Enhance capacity to negotiate effectively at COPs of the Three Rio Conventions and other global forums to fulfill national needs and interests.
9. Harmonize authority and responsibility for policy determination and implementation between the central and provincial authorities
10. Strengthen capacity of institutions to carry out research on relevant areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.
11. Establish an institutional structure effective planning and implementation of work programmes.

## **II. Theme specific capacity development:**

1. Develop competence of land users to benefit optimally from land while conserving.
2. Enhance capacity to provide technology for conservation and sustainable use of land and water resources.
3. Adopt measures to promote use of renewable energy resources and means for alternative livelihoods, to reduce land degradation.

4. Improve capacity of authorities concerned to forecast and warn of adverse climatic situations.
5. Enhance the capacity for vulnerability assessments and measures for adaptation to climate change:
  - (a) Identify, map and demarcate areas vulnerable to sea level rise
  - (b) Assess effect of CC on ground water, especially in areas prone to drought and in areas subject to sea level rise
  - (c) Assess change in impact of waves on the coast
  - (d) Assess effect of CC on flora and fauna
  - (e) Assess effect of CC on food and export/ plantation crops
  - (f) Assess effect of CC on health
  - (g) Assess effect of CC on hydro power generation potential
  - (h) Developing and transfer of technology to facilitate developing adaptive measures
6. Improve and extend the operation of CDM.
7. Enhance institutional capacity for multi stakeholder participation to promote conservation, management, recovery of threatened species and sustainable use of commercially important species.
8. Implement a multi-institutional coordinated programme to identify, design and establish a rational network of areas needing protection in accordance with the ecosystem approach.
9. Develop and institute an effective system to regulate and control the provision of access to genetic resources by external parties, in order to ensure fair and equitable benefits to Sri Lanka from the resources so provided.
10. Develop and introduce measures to enhance national capacity for biotechnology using genetic resources.
11. Establish an effective inter- institutional mechanism to identify and monitor critical components of biodiversity and threats to biodiversity.
12. Enhance institutional capacity for participatory and integrated *in-situ* conservation and management of ecosystems with perspectives on poverty eradication.
13. Strengthen the legal framework for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

**Way Forward:** To take the plan forward into the implementation phase it is essential to have a strategy for implementation of the plan. The leadership for this has to come from the Ministry of Environment. External resources and assistance will be required for many of the capacity development activities, but there are also a number of capacity building actions which must be supported by in-country funding. The latter includes actions which do not need any substantial injection of funds. The capacity

development interventions that do not need external funding must be acted upon without delay. Guidelines for developing a strategy for implementing the consolidated action plan have been proposed. The following must be undertaken immediately to develop the strategy.

- ✍ Set up a committee of senior officers and experts to develop detailed strategies to implement the action plan.
- ✍ Formulate and implement a strategic plan to communicate the capacity development plan to key stakeholders in order to obtain their commitment to implement the plan.
- ✍ Obtain concurrence of policy makers for the proposed institutional structure for environment and natural resource management
- ✍ Formulate a supporting **communication strategy for this activity.**

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## ACRONYMS

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>AIACC</b>     | - Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change                                       |
| <b>ABS</b>       | - Access and Benefit Sharing   |
| <b>ADA</b>       | - Access Determining Agency  |
| <b>AgBiotech</b> | - Agricultural Biotechnology Centre  |
| <b>ARRPEEC</b>   | - Asian Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate                         |
| <b>AMC</b>       | - Anti-Malaria Campaign  |
| <b>AusAID</b>    | - Australian Agency for International Development  |
| <br>             |  |
| <b>BCAP</b>      | - Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan  |
| <b>BDS</b>       | - Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment                                      |
| <br>             |  |
| <b>CAPaBLE</b>   | - Scientific Capacity Building/Enhancement for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries |
| <b>CARP</b>      | - Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy   |
| <b>CBD</b>       | - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity  |
| <b>CBO</b>       | - Community Based Organization   |
| <b>CCA</b>       | - Coast Conservation Act   |
| <b>CCD</b>       | - Coast Conservation Department  |
| <b>CCCS</b>      | - Centre for Climate Change Studies  |
| <b>CCS</b>       | - Climate Change Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment                                    |
| <b>CEA</b>       | - Central Environmental Authority  |
| <b>CEB</b>       | - Ceylon Electricity Board   |
| <b>CEPOM</b>     | - Committee on Environment and Policy Management   |
| <b>CFE</b>       | - Caring for the Environment 2003-2007 – Path to Sustainable Development                       |
| <b>CHM</b>       | - Clearing House Mechanism   |
| <b>COP</b>       | - Conference of Parties  |
| <b>CRI</b>       | - Coconut Research Institute   |
| <b>CRMP</b>      | - Coastal Resources Management Project   |
| <br>             |  |
| <b>DAPH</b>      | - Department of Animal Production and Health   |
| <b>DEA</b>       | - Department of Export Agriculture   |
| <b>DFAR</b>      | - Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  |
| <b>DM</b>        | - Department of Meteorology  |
| <b>DNA</b>       | - Designated national Authority  |
| <b>DNP</b>       | - Draft National Policy  |
| <b>DOA</b>       | - Department of Agriculture  |
| <b>DOH</b>       | - Department of Health   |
| <b>DWLC</b>      | - Department of Wild Life Conservation   |
| <br>             |  |
| <b>ECF</b>       | - Energy Conservation Fund   |
| <b>ERD</b>       | - External Resources Department  |
| <b>EFL</b>       | - Environmental Foundation Limited   |
| <b>EIA</b>       | - Environmental Impact Assessment  |
| <b>EPL</b>       | - Environmental Protection License   |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>FCCISL</b>   | - Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka               |
| <b>FD</b>       | - Forest Department  |
| <b>FFPO</b>     | - Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance                                       |
| <b>FO</b>       | - Forest Ordinance   |
| <b>GERIAP</b>   | - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia-Pacific            |
| <b>GEF</b>      | - Global Environmental Facility  |
| <b>GHG</b>      | - Greenhouse Gas   |
| <b>GMSL</b>     | - Green Movement of Sri Lanka  |
| <b>HARTI</b>    | - Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute                |
| <b>HEB</b>      | - Health Education Bureau  |
| <b>HORDI</b>    | - Horticultural Research and Development Institute                           |
| <b>ID</b>       | - Irrigation Department  |
| <b>IGBP</b>     | - International Geosphere Biosphere Programme                                |
| <b>IPCC</b>     | - Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change                                 |
| <b>ISB</b>      | - Industrial Services Bureau   |
| <b>IPR</b>      | - Intellectual Property Rights   |
| <b>LA</b>       | - Local Authority  |
| <b>LOICZ</b>    | - Land Ocean Interaction in the Coastal Zone                                 |
| <b>LRC</b>      | - Land Reform Commission   |
| <b>LUPPD</b>    | - Land Use Policy Planning Division of the Ministry in charge of agriculture |
| <b>MAB</b>      | - Man and the Biosphere  |
| <b>MEA</b>      | - Multilateral Environmental Agreement                                       |
| <b>MEF</b>      | - Ministry of Finance & Planning   |
| <b>MENR</b>     | - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources                              |
| <b>MFAR</b>     | - Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources                                |
| <b>MIND</b>     | - Munasinghe Institute for Development                                       |
| <b>MOE</b>      | - Ministry of Environment  |
| <b>MOU</b>      | - Memorandum of Understanding  |
| <b>MPPA</b>     | - Marine Pollution Prevention Authority                                      |
| <b>MS&amp;T</b> | - Ministry of Science and Technology   |
| <b>MTA</b>      | - Material Transfer Agreement  |
| <b>NARA</b>     | - National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency                 |
| <b>NARP</b>     | - National Agricultural Research Plan  |
| <b>NASTEC</b>   | - National Science and Technology Commission                                 |
| <b>NBG</b>      | - National Botanic Gardens   |
| <b>NBRO</b>     | - National Building Research Organization                                    |
| <b>NCPC</b>     | - National Cleaner Production Centre   |
| <b>NCSD</b>     | - National Council for Sustainable Development                               |
| <b>NEA</b>      | - National Environment Act   |
| <b>NERD</b>     | - National Engineering Research and Development Centre                       |
| <b>NGO</b>      | - Non-Governmental Organization  |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>NIE</b>        | - National Institute of Education                       |
| <b>NRC</b>        | - National Research Council                             |
| <b>NRMC</b>       | - Natural Resources Management Centre                   |
| <b>NSC</b>        | - National Steering Committee                           |
| <b>NSF</b>        | - National Science Foundation                           |
| <b>NZG</b>        | - National Zoological Gardens                           |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>ORDE</b>       | - Organization for Resource Development and Environment |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>PAM&amp;WC</b> | - Protected Area Management and Wildlife Conservation   |
| <b>PGRC</b>       | - Plant Genetic Resources Centre                        |
| <b>PMU</b>        | - Project Management Unit                               |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>R&amp;D</b>    | - Research and Development                              |
| <b>RBG</b>        | - Royal Botanic Gardens                                 |
| <b>RRI</b>        | - Rubber Research Institute                             |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>SAD</b>        | - Department of State Accounts                          |
| <b>S&amp;T</b>    | - Science and Technology                                |
| <b>SCPPC</b>      | - Seed Certification and Plant Protection Centre        |
| <b>SD</b>         | - Survey Department                                     |
| <b>SLAAS</b>      | - Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science  |
| <b>SLEJF</b>      | - Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum             |
| <b>SLPA</b>       | - Sri Lanka Ports Authority                             |
| <b>SLTB</b>       | - Sri Lanka Tourist Board                               |
| <b>SRI</b>        | - Sugarcane Research Institute                          |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>TCP</b>        | - Turtle Conservation Project                           |
| <b>TRI</b>        | - Tea Research Institute                                |
| <b>TWG</b>        | - Thematic Working Group                                |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>UDA</b>        | - Urban Development Authority                           |
| <b>UNCBD</b>      | - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity     |
| <b>UNCCD</b>      | - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification   |
| <b>UNDP</b>       | - United Nations Development Programme                  |
| <b>UNEP</b>       | - United Nations Environment Programme                  |
| <b>UNFCCC</b>     | - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| <b>UOP</b>        | - University of peradeniya                              |
| <b>UOM</b>        | - University of Moraruwa                                |
| <b>USJ</b>        | - University of Sri Jayawardanapura                     |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>WEA</b>        | - Wayamba Environmental Authority                       |
| <b>WRB</b>        | - Water Resources Board                                 |
| <br>              |   |
| <b>YES</b>        | - Youth Exploration Society                             |
| <b>YZA</b>        | - Young Zoologists' Association                         |